

Brilliant Future Predicted For Miss Benkman

By ANNA C. WELLBROCK

In a masterly manner Miss Patricia Benkman, talented young pianist held her audience spell-bound last Sunday night at Larkin Hall when she played the Grieg piano Concerto, one of the most brilliant and most beautiful piano concertos ever written.

For a perfect performance this concerto demands a fiery temperament, a dulcet tone, and a great



MISS PATRICIA BENKMAN

deal of technical competence, all of which Miss Benkman is the rich possessor. The lyric passages can never be overly sentimental, but they must always keep up an undercurrent of temperament. The concerto itself is known to be the most perfect example of concerto form.

In the first movement the themes that predominate throughout, are played by the solo pianist in different forms and the Cadenza to the first movement is the climax of harmonic changes. The movement ends with crashing chords for piano and orchestra together.

The mood changes in the second movement to one of the most exquisite lullabys ever written.

The style of a vital march in the third movement becomes more abandoned. Then the mood once more changes and one hears lovely soft music, mindful of the folk song. Then Grieg carries one back to the March and develops his theme until it reaches a victorious finale when piano and orchestra together climax the glorious work with crashing chords and brilliant arpeggios.

Music, song and flowers, the gifts of the gods, were combined on this never-to-be-forgotten WPA music project that made many new converts to the best that can be given in enjoyable entertainment.

It was plainly seen that Miss Benkman had the love and good wishes of the sixty or more musicians who so ably rendered their part of the fulfillment of a brilliant concert. They and a great part of the audience during intermission wended their way to the charming Miss Benkman to clasp the hand of San Francisco's own talented young artist and to wish her success in her chosen career.

The music critic of the S. F. Chronicle writes, "Of the very young soloist one gathered an impression of great sincerity, intelligent musicianship, and enviable technical command!"

Under handicaps as to hall and piano which only a musician can appreciate, Ernst Bacon, the conductor, and Miss Benkman, the piano soloist, nevertheless mounted all obstacles. Miss Samorukova's lovely voice was extremely appreciated for its volume and impressive, dramatic quality.

Open house was held after the concert at the Benkman residence, 1250 Twenty-fourth avenue for friends both young and old. A buffet supper spread on a beautifully decorated table was enjoyed by all, and we felt highly honored to be called friend by this adorable family consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Benkman, their three lovely talented daughters, "Patty," and Constance, and youth-grandma, Mrs. Emily Andrews, Gold Star Mother.

Sunset Miss Creates Stir in Music Circles

No matter what the future may have in store for lovely Patricia Benkman, this 15 year old child genius must always cherish the memory of her first triumph as pianist with the S. F. Chamber Symphony conducted by Gastori Usigli.

The manner in which she edged timidly across the stage and the manner in which she made her exit will live long in the memory of all who were fortunate enough to witness the crowning event in the young life of Patricia.

I, for one, hope from the bottom of my heart that the sweet, natural poise of Tuesday night will always be a part of each ensuing program!

Simplicity was the keynote of her lovely hand-made white organdy gown, trimmed with tiny pink buds a creation from the loving hands of Patricia's grandmother, Mrs. Emily Andrews. If what poured from her heart into each stitch comes true, what a glorious future must be in store for Patricia.

And, was Polytechnic High well represented?

According to the tremendous applause received they must have all been at the Columbia theater.

The Grieg concerto was played by Patricia with a lyric charm and a notable technical competence and she revealed an astonishing authority of style and expression.

In the audience was Alfred Hertz who heartily congratulated the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Benkman. He predicted a wonderful career for their young daughter. When Mr. Hertz was introduced to Mitzi Benkman as a student of Mozart he fondly called her the little Mozart.

Time alone will tell what the future holds for this eleven year old student who now attends Jefferson grammar school eighth grade.

Both girls are pupils of the famous and gifted Lev Schorr.

The stage of the Columbia theater was banked with fourteen lovely bouquets of flowers and also one lovely basket of gorgeous blooms presented by the Gold Star Mothers' Chapter No. 1, of which Patricia's grandmother, Mrs. Emily Andrews, is president.

Some day when I'm a little withered up old lady I suppose I'll be proudly telling Patricia about the time I wrote her first publicity and predicted a wonderful future for her in the Sunset Courier. But, then, such is human nature.

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